GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016
ICWF Fund
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds accrued and allocated under the Indian Community welfare Fund (ICWF) since its inception;

(b) the number of dead bodies of Indian workers transported back to India utilizing ICWF funds during the last three years;

(c) whether the Minister has any plans to increase ICWF funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 20 REGARDING "ICWF FUND" FOR ANSWER ON 16.11.2016

The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is aimed at assisting Overseas Indian nationals abroad in times of distress on a means tested basis in the deserving cases. The support being extended under ICWF include air passage to stranded Overseas Indians, boarding and lodging, emergency medical care, initial legal assistance, local burial/cremation, air lifting of mortal remains, assistance to local Associations to establish Indian Community Centres, fines/penalties for those in jail/detention and penalties for illegal stay.

ICWF is predominantly funded through the levying of service charge on Consular services by Indian Missions and Posts abroad. Within a short span of time since its inception in 2009, the Fund has become self-sustaining and has been gradually extended to all our Missions and Posts abroad. As of end February, 2016 the balance in ICWF stands at around Rs. 311 crores. The cumulative allocation by government under relevant budget head (shared by ICWF with other schemes) stands around Rs15.70 crores. As per available information, ICWF has been used for transportation of mortal remains in 182 cases in 2013, 195 cases in 2014, 203 cases in 2015 and 189 cases till end October, 2016. Allocation of ICWF Funds, Mission-wise details of ICWF balance and year-wise details of transportation of mortal remains from ICWF are enclosed at Annexure-I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively.